(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether private business houses were importing sugar or any PSU was importing it from Pakistan; and

(d) when the last consignment of sugar was received from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Import of sugar is allowed under Open General Licence (O.G.L.) subject to registration of import contracts with APEDA. As such, under this system, various private parties are importing sugar as per their own commercial judgement. As per the information published by DGCIS Calcutta, Ministry of Commerce, during last two financial years 1997-98 and 1998-99, a quantity of 33,226.0 MTs and 5,79,073.0 MTs respectively, was reported imported from Pakistan. No sugar has been imported during the aforesaid period on Government account.

(c) Various private business houses may be importing sugar from Pakistan but no information about their imports of sugar from Pakistan is available with the Government. However, M/s PEC Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce, has imported sugar from Pakistan under O.G.L. on behalf of the private parties.

(d) The last consignment of sugar is reported to have been arrived from Pakistan at Rail Cargo, Amritsar Customs, Amritsar on 19.6.1999. No import of sugar from Pakistan has been reported after June, 1999.

Out-Turn Ratio for Rice

5050. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the issue relating to fixation of out-turn ratio for rice has been pending with Government;

(b) the action taken by Government on the report of CFTRI; and

(c) by when Government are likely to finalise this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India, through the Food Corporation of India, entrusted the study of trial milling of paddy for determination of out-turn ratio to three institutes engaged in research activities relating to Rice Milling

Technology viz. CFTRI, Mysore, IIT, Kharagpur and Paddy Precessing Research Centre (PPRC), Thanjavur during 1993. The CFTRI, Mysoe undertook the trial milling study in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka during 1993-94 and submitted their report during August/October 1994. The report of CFTRI, Mysore, together with those of the other two institutions , were considered by an Expert Committee constituted by the Government Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee received during November 1994, the Government of India have fixed the out-turn ratio of 67% and 68% in Raw and Parboiled rice respectively uniformly applicable for all States since 1995-96.

However, on the request of Government of Punjab, a fresh study has been entrusted to CFTRI, Mysore during October, 1999 to undertake laboratory trial milling of Paddy grown in Punjab. The study was commenced during October 1999 and is still in progress.

Pay/OTA Bill of Super Bazar

†5051. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total pay bill of Super Bazar during the year ending on March, 1996

(b) the amount of overtime paid to employees during the said period;

(c) whether this pay bill was more in comparison to that of March, 1993;

(d) the total amount incurred on transport allowance, refreshment, other allowances during the said period; and

(e) the justification of these overheads vis-a-vis the sales which have been declining due to grocery and other sections remaining empty month after month in Super Bazar branches particularly in Connaught Place, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Super Bazar has reported its pay bill during the year ending March, 1996 was Rs.9,58,17,715.81 on salary and Rs.71,71,875.15 was towards employees' contribution in Provident Fund. The total pay bill was thus Rs.10,29,89,590.96. During the said period, the overtime allowance paid to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.